CAMP WHITE
GRENADE II

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

VOLUME 3, NO. 3 NEWSLETTER OF THE CAMP WHITE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER 1998

THE "MIGHTY MO" COMES HOME

It arrived on Oahu's southern horizon like a spirit the morning of June 21. Ethereal and half-shrouded in mist, the great battleship vanished and reappeared like some kind of mirage upon the waves.

Then slowly, the USS Missouri grew larger, clearer, as if the lens of time needed just the right focus to capture one of history's most famous participants.

"I thought it was pretty historic, very heart warming, just to know the Mighty Mo is coming back to its home port. I was very moved by it."

HELENE MAILE, 39

"It's beautiful. Brings memories of my father's days. He was on the Arizona. I was 10 years old when he got killed."

ROBERT SPENCER, 66

And from the shore, the present greeted the past. From Kailua to Kewalo Basin, thousands of people looked with wonder while the Mighty Mo was towed toward Waikiki.

The ship's new caretakers, the Honolulu-based nonprofit USS Missouri Memorial Association, plan to turn the ship, which was decommissioned in 1992, into an interactive museum.

Best known as the site where Japan surrendered on September 2, 1945, the Missouri will be moored near the USS Arizona Memorial, whose sinking on December 7, 1941, serves as a symbol for the start of World War II in the Pacific.

Together, the two battleships will serve as historical "bookends" to the war. And because the Missouri will never go to sea again, its new owners made sure that it got a hero's salute.

"It's big. It's cool. It's neat."

AMY HUNGERFORD, 9

A special thanks to the ***Honolulu Advertiser,*** *from which this material was excerpted.*

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Al Inlow

Dear friends:

The holiday season is upon us. I would like to take this opportunity to send our best regards and holiday wishes from the Camp White Historical Association President, Board of Trustees, and our loyal members to our trusted Italian friends. I would also like to offer our deepest thanks to a few special friends who have placed wreaths at each of the following cemeteries on Veterans' Day in rememberance of our fallen comrades from the 91st Division and other military units that fought in Italy. Rest in peace: **Livergnano, Loiano, Il Giogo Pass**, and **Florence, Italy**. For their many years of loyalty to the 91st, special recognition to:

Claudio Coliva,
BOLOGNA, ITALY

Guiseppe Mazzani
LOIANO, ITALY

Fernando Gemegnani
FERINZE, ITALY

Marchmont "March" Kovas
VICENZA ITALY

The best to all of you.

Sincerely,

AL INLOW, PRESIDENT
Camp White Historical Association and Museum

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The Grenade accepts suggestions and contributions from readers. If you have a story idea or appropriate event to promote, write Carolyn Sharrock at P.O. Box 2373, White City, OR 97503.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Roy Erickson

Above: Roy Erickson, 1948, and today (left)

Roy was raised in Union and LaGrande, Oregon, and schooled in both towns. He finished his schooling in 1939. His parents were farmers and musicians, and were paid to play at Saturday night dances when they weren't farming. Roy worked in the hay fields for $1.00 a day, plus room and board. He also delivered papers and worked part time at a local Chevrolet garage assisting a mechanic and washing and cleaning cars. The experience proved valuable in later years, when he needed mechanical ability.

He obtained a job in LaGrande at the State of Oregon Highway Department, working with paving crews and driving gravel trucks and snowplows in the winter.

Roy entered the Army in January, 1943, and was assigned to the Military Police detachment. He trained at Fort Douglas, Utah, and was sent to Camp Bullis, Texas, where he received training in Town and Train patrol.

In 1943 he was transferred to Camp White, and assigned to the Military Police detachment. At Camp White he performed duties at the prisoner stockades and guarded prisoners on trucks for trash pickups. He also served on motorcycle and jeep traffic patrol and guardhouse desk duty.

He was discharged from the army on March 6, 1946, at Camp Beale, California. After his discharge he worked for Montgomery Ward and OK Rubber Welders.

In 1948 he applied and was accepted for a police officer position in the Medford Police Department. He started as a patrolman on the graveyard shift, then moved on to sergeant duty on the police department receiving desk, traffic motorcycle patrol, jail court duty, and then special service officer taking photographs, fingerprinting, inspecting police cars for cleanliness, safety, and needed equipment. He retired from the Medford Police Department in March 1975.

In the eight months that Roy Erickson served as a regular volunteer at the Camp White Military Museum he accumulated 138 1/2 volunteer hours. While he no longer volunteers on a regular basis, he still helps out occasionally.

HISTORY ON DISPLAY:

THOMAS C. BLACHARD

Note on a museum case: The items displayed here were donated by the University Club of Portland, Oregon. During World War II, the Club provided services to transient military personnel. The things displayed were left at the Club at the conclusion of the war.

We know very little about the Army Air Force officer who left these items other than what we have found through an inventory of the locker and a review of his medal and theater insignias. We know that in February of 1942 he was a private. This we discovered when we located a pass issued to him in his overcoat. We also know that he probably attained the rank of major. His theater insignias indicate that he served in the 10th Air Corps stationed in India or Burma. His ribbons indicate that he served in the Asiatic-Pacific campaign. It appears he was honorably discharged as he has the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and discharge insignias. Unfortunately the trail grows dim at this point.

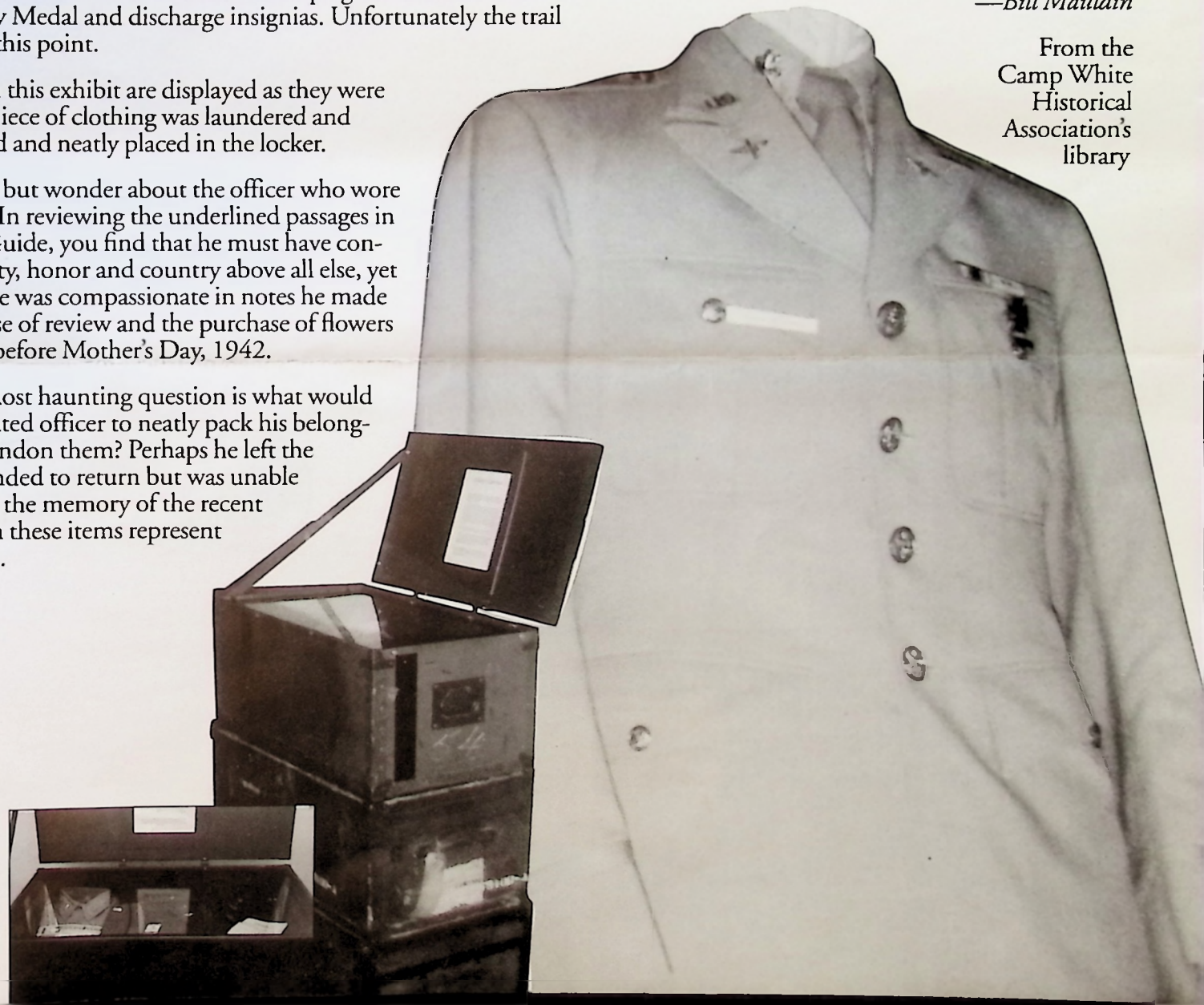
The articles in this exhibit are displayed as they were found. Each piece of clothing was laundered and pressed, folded and neatly placed in the locker.

You can't help but wonder about the officer who wore this uniform. In reviewing the underlined passages in his Officer's Guide, you find that he must have considered his duty, honor and country above all else, yet we find that he was compassionate in notes he made for the purpose of review and the purchase of flowers he made just before Mother's Day, 1942.

Perhaps the most haunting question is what would cause a decorated officer to neatly pack his belongings, then abandon them? Perhaps he left the club and intended to return but was unable to, or perhaps the memory of the recent conflict which these items represent was too much.

"Now that ya mention it, Joe, it does sound like th' patter of rain on a tin roof."
—Bill Mauldin

From the Camp White Historical Association's library



Pictured above are shirts and caps we have for sale. They represent the 91st Division and each of the other services. The Army shirt is light grey. Sizes available: X-large, large, medium (only 2 small in the 91st shirt and NO small in the other services).

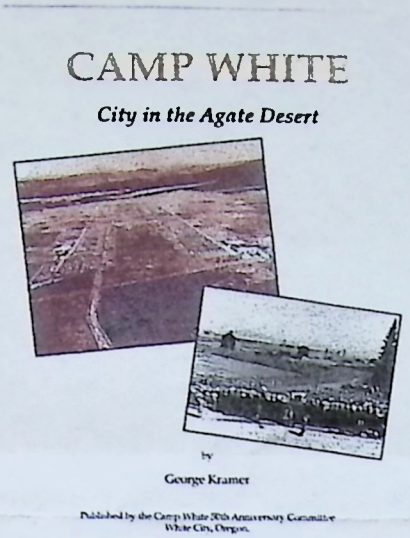
Our Camp White/91st shirt is white with the 91st Division picture on the front. The cap has a green bill with a green fir tree emblem on the front.

MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER PRICES

Shirts are $10.80 Caps are $7.20
There is a $3.00 charge for postage if ordering by mail.

NON-MEMBER PRICES

Shirts are $12.00 Caps are $8.00
There is a $3.00 charge for postage if ordering by mail.



All about the building of Camp White, the activities that took place there during WWII, and what happened to the Camp after the war.

$10.00 plus $3.00 for postage

All about the 91st Fir Tree Division that was re-activited when Camp White opened, the training, the POW's, the 91 mile march, and othe activities at the Camp.

$10.00 plus $3.00 postage

CAMP WHITE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 2373, WHITE CITY, OREGON 97503

Dear Member,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Betty Welburn, Vice Pres.
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The **holidays** and **gift-giving** are just around the corner. Enclosed is a list of items on sale at Camp White Military Museum that may help make your gift selections easier. Look through our flyer then make your choices. It's easy to order, just mark the quantity you want on the line showing the size you want. T-shirts are available in sizes **X-Large**, **Large**, and **Medium** (we have only two 91st Division T-shirt in size small).

Al Inlow
PRESIDENT CWHA & M

NATIONAL BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Jim Bell, OK
Jim Christopher, TX
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91st Division T-shirt: XL____ L____ M____ 91st Cap: Qty___

Army T-shirt: XL____ L____ M____ Army Cap: Qty___

Navy T-shirt: XL____ L____ M___ Navy Cap: Qty___

Air Force T-shirt: XL____ L____ M____ Air Force Cap: Qty___

Marine T-shirt: XL____ L____ M____ Marine Cap: Qty___

Book: *Camp White: The 91st Infantry Division* Qty____

Book: *Camp White, City in the Agate Desert* Qty____

SHIP TO: Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Any two items sent to same address is only $3.00 postage. Make checks payable to:

Camp White Historical Association
PO Box 2373, White City, OR 97503

THE 91ST IN AFRICA: WHY DID WE GO?

Christian P. Hald, M.D.
Colonel, Infantry Retired, Former C.O., I/361st Infantry

Was there a reason that the 91st Infantry Division was sent to Algeria in North Africa? Why was such a public display made of our landing at the port of Oran? Why did we spend so much time blowing up old German and French concrete bunkers in full view of everyone? Why did we spend so much time with the Navy in the Mediterranean getting on and off LCIs?

There was a reason–the story is told in *A Bodyguard of Lies*, by Anthony Cave Brown, published by arrangement with Harper & Row. Brown recounts various cover and deception schemes that were planned and executed all over Europe in those years to fool the Germans into believing landings were planned at various points in the nations surrounding the territory they held.

The 91st and 361st were a part of that grand sting operation. The extensive training and very visible activity that went on in North Africa was intended to convince the Arabs, French collaborators and others spying for the Germans that the 91st was getting ready to make

an assault landing on the coast of Southern France–so they would pass the word on to the Germans.

The scheme worked beautifully for the Allies; a number of armored and infantry divisions– enough to constitute a German army–were held on the south coast of France just to prevent a landing. A German army held in defense of Southern France could not trouble anyone landing on the beaches of Normandy.

Remember all the rumors that were floating around when the 361st was at the Race Track in Naples? Those tales were designed to scare the Germans into keeping troops in the Casino area, rather than withdrawing them to the Anzio Beachhead to prevent the breakout. That sting worked, too—no Germans were withdrawn to the Anzio Beachhead.

The 361st Infantry and 91st Division helped win two battles without firing a shot! I think I like that type of battle.

TAPS

If you know of a member passing, please contact the association and we will add them to our Taps.

Pete Adams, 91st Div. C-Btry, 347th Field Artillery—September 1998.

Ray Schelp, 91st Div., C-Btry, 347th Field Artillery—Oct. 1998

CAMP WHITE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
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Eagle Point Historical Society
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